

Proper disposal of hot ashes and coals



Each year Fire Fighters respond to fires that are caused by improper disposal of hot coals or ashes from fireplaces, grills or mobile fireplaces designed for use on decks or patios.

The fact is that coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours or perhaps days after you think the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc. To be safe, simply treat all ashes and coals as hot, even when you think they had time enough to cool.

The damage above resulted when hot ashes were placed in a plastic trash container.

To properly dispose of ashes or coals we recommend the following:

- If possible, allow ashes and coals to cool in the area where you had the fire for several days. The fireplace or grill is designed to contain their heat safely.
- When it is time to dispose of the ashes, transfer them to a metal container and wet them down.
- Keep the container outside your home and away from any combustibles until the refuse is hauled away.
- **DO NOT** use galvanized containers as hot coals on galvanized metal will release noxious fumes.
- **DO NOT** place other combustibles in the container.
- **DO NOT** use a combustible container. (see photo)

Proper disposal of hot ashes and coals



Each year Fire Fighters respond to fires that are caused by improper disposal of hot coals or ashes from fireplaces, grills or mobile fireplaces designed for use on decks or patios.

The fact is that coals and ashes from fires can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours or perhaps days after you think the fire is out. The exact amount of time for complete extinguishment and cooling depends on many factors such as how hot the fire was, what was burning, how much unburned fuel remains, etc. To be safe, simply treat all ashes and coals as hot, even when you think they had time enough to cool.

The damage above resulted when hot ashes were placed in a plastic trash container.

To properly dispose of ashes or coals we recommend the following:

- If possible, allow ashes and coals to cool in the area where you had the fire for several days. The fireplace or grill is designed to contain their heat safely.
- When it is time to dispose of the ashes, transfer them to a metal container and wet them down.
- Keep the container outside your home and away from any combustibles until the refuse is hauled away.
- **DO NOT** use galvanized containers as hot coals on galvanized metal will release noxious fumes.
- **DO NOT** place other combustibles in the container.
- **DO NOT** use a combustible container. (see photo)